

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #01-14)
January 15, 2014**

Location of Meeting: **ConnDOT HQ Building
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT.**

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Chuck Beck (for DOT Commissioner)
Tom Dubno
Michael Griffin
Dave LeVasseur (for OPM Secretary)
Stan Mickus
Bob Ross
Parker Wise
George Wisker

Absent

John Johnson
Larry Miller
Joe Riccio
David Shuda
Catherine Smith/Ron Angelo

Guests

Peter Calcaterra	Ned Farman	Scot Graham	Stephanie Molden	Brent Pounds
Joel Severance	Judi Sheffele	Grant Westerson		

I. **Call to Order:**

In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Commissioner Dubno called the meeting to order at 0930. A quorum was not initially present. Commissioner Dubno asked for all present to introduce themselves starting with the CTMC Commissioners and ending with the interested parties in the audience.

II. **Review of Meeting Minutes:**

Action on the summary report of the December 18, 2013 meeting was postponed awaiting a quorum. A motion to approve the summary report was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Dubno. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

III **Discussion Open to Public: None offered.**

IV **Old Business:**

Dredging Update – In the absence of Joe Salvatore, Chuck Beck reported on three ongoing Federal dredging projects: Norwalk, New Haven and Wethersfield Cove. The Norwalk FNP maintenance dredging project has essentially been completed. The 70 cubic yard bucket dredger experienced mechanical problems that delayed the Norwalk project. Since Cashman is also the contractor being used in New Haven, the delay in Norwalk delayed the start of the New Haven FNP maintenance dredging project. Cashman will be bringing in three additional smaller dredgers shortly to make up for the lost time. Commissioner Dubno reported that he as well as Beck and Salvatore had attended a meeting last Friday morning in New Haven concerning the need for coordination between the dredge company and the state licensed marine pilots navigating the New Haven Harbor with large ships during the dredging operation. Beck reported that a communication protocol was established and agreed to. Cashman will keep the Pilot Dispatch office informed of where dredges will be working on a daily basis. Dispatch will keep the pilots informed of dredge locations. Dispatch will provide ship arrival information to Cashman. The assigned pilots will contact the dredges via cell phone/and/or VHF radio upon approach to fine tune timing of arrival/potential need to move the dredges. The third project, Wethersfield Cove, has been bid and contractor selected. The Wethersfield Cove material will be used to re-nourish the north side of Gildersleeve Island in the CT River. Beck advised that seven monitors associated with the ELIS SEIS are in the process of being collected by from the bottom UConn Avery Point to obtain the winter seasonal data. The final phase of the project will be organizing

and reporting on the data. Lastly, Beck reminded all of the discussion that took place at the December meeting on both the DMMP and the ELIS SEIS. Beck advised that some confusion between the two projects had led to some misunderstandings. He advised that both DEEP Commissioner Esty's letter to the Army Corp expressing concern about the completion of the DMMP on time and New England District of the Army Corps of Engineers Colonel Samaris' letter of reply was part of the Meeting Package. Colonel Samaris' letter which was not available at the December meeting addressed the DMMP completion date negating the need for the CTMC to send a letter of concern as had been contemplated at the December meeting. George Wisker added clarification as to which Federal agency had the lead on which project. The Army Corps has the lead on the DMMP and EPA Region 1 has the lead on the ELIS SEIS using state funds. Both projects have sufficient funds to reach their respective completion dates on time. Additionally, all were reminded that additional letters of concern to either the Army Corps or the EPA would take valuable staff time away from the respective project in order to respond to the incoming letter. The discussion concluded with all agreeing that there was no need for a CTMC letter of concern at this time.

LIS HSC/AMSC Update – Captain Scot Graham made reference to the emails forwarded to the CTMC on his behalf since the last meeting. In particular was an announcement about a Marine Distress Search and Rescue Communications & Planning Workshop being held on Tuesday 21 Jan 2014. Interested parties can attend in person at the USCG Sector Long Island Sound Captain Walsh Building or virtually via a webinar format at <https://share.dhs.gov/lis-marine-sar-training/>. Graham alerted all that an announcement on the FY 2014 Port Security Grants is expected soon. There is a requirement to solicit for applications to the next round of PSGs within 90 days of the Federal budget agreement becoming a reality. He advised that \$37-40M of the anticipated \$100M being made available nationally should be provided to CG Sector LIS. The application process should be the same as FY 2013 and the solicitation for grant applications should be out by mid-April 2014. Captain Graham reminded all about the recently distributed FAA bulletin on drones/recreationally sized UAVs. He also informed all that Millstone has established a new sonar/radar security capability. Questions directed to Millstones security OPOC Phil Bauman at (860) 204-1165. Millstone will be conducting a "hostile action drill" mid-September. The drill is expected to have a maritime component. Millstone will also be moving its Emergency Operation Center from within the fence-line to outside of the 10 mile safety radius. On another note, Scot Graham reported that the USN Submarine Base located in Groton will be conducting a waterborne security exercise between February 18th and 27th, 2014. Live small arms fire using blank rounds will be heard in the area. The AMSC Marine Groups have been and are conducting Mass Rescue Workshops and Tabletop Exercises that will lead to a full exercise in 2016. Lastly, Captain Graham advised that there will be a change of Command within the Ct Army National Guard's Joint Task Force soon. Colonel Muscolo will be relieved by Colonel Welch.

During the above discussions, Commissioner Mickus arrived making a quorum. At 0947 Commissioner Dubno returned to the review/approval of the December 18, 2013 Summary Report. Dave LeVasseur made a motion to approve that was seconded by Commissioner Parker. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

2013 Annual Report – Making reference to the draft contained in the meeting package, the Commissioner Dubno asked if anybody had anything to add the draft CTMC 2013 Annual Report. Chuck Beck advised that he had made changes flagged at the December 18, 2013 CTMC meeting and updated the draft based on comments made at the December meeting. Commissioner Wise asked if the Annual Report should emphasize/restate the CTMC's support for the creation of a statewide port authority. Chuck Beck reminded all that the comments in the Annual Report were based on what the CTMC did last year. Further emphasis of CTMC support for a CT Port Authority could be made during this meeting, thus would be reflected in the summary report. Beck pointed out that he had distributed an article to the CTMC Commissioners present concerning the agenda of the Democratic leadership of the State Legislature during the upcoming session of which the creation of a Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) is listed. Commissioner Dubno added that at yesterday's CT Maritime Coalition meeting it was reported that State Senator Maynard will again be introducing legislation this session similar to the

legislation he introduced last session to create a CPA. Through consensus the voting members of the CTMC present emphasized the Commission's support for the creation of a CPA. In response to a question from Commissioner Dubno, George Wisker made a motion to approve the CTMC 2013 Annual report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Griffin and passed by unanimous vote.

Maritime Policy – Reminding all that they had been asked to review the Maritime Policy Statement at the December 18th meeting, Commissioner Dubno asked the CTMC Commissioners if they had any edits to the Maritime Policy Statement that had been drafted in 2005 and approved in February 2006. A copy was in the meeting package and also available on the CTMC web page which is part of the CTDOT web site. The initial thoughts of the CTMC Commissioners present were that the Maritime Policy Statement had good vision when created and didn't need any changes at this time. Scot Graham did posture that perhaps the Policy could reflect anticipated changes caused by the completion of the Panama Canal expansion. Commissioner Dubno stated that the CT Maritime Coalition had received and update on the Panama Canal expansion project yesterday from a member of the CT Maritime Association. It was reported that due to a financial matter, work on the expansion project might come to a stop in January if a payment is not made. Regardless the Project is not scheduled to be completed until late 2015. Consensus among the Commissioners was that the Maritime Policy did not need to be changed at this time.

V New Business:

TransformCT – Presentation. Peter Calcaterra from the DOT Bureau of Policy and Planning provided a brief on the Transform CT project. TransformCT is a 50 year strategic visioning effort in partnership with other key state agencies and public stakeholders. The project will involve establishing baseline forecast, revenue projects and implementing policy in an effort to prioritize implementation of transportation projects. Public awareness sessions, public workshops and household surveys will be part of the effort. Anybody interested in providing input can do so via an interactive website www.transformCT.org. Peter pointed out that there has been little to any input on maritime issues thus, encouraged the CTMC and interested parties to get involved via the website and/or upcoming workshops.

VI Executive Session: None called.

VII Date of Next Meeting: All were reminded that the next meeting of the CTMC would be held at **0930 on Wednesday February 19, 2014** at the **ConnDOT HQ Building in Newington, CT in Conference Room B.**

VIII Adjournment: - A motion to adjourn was made by George Wisker, seconded by Dave LeVasseur and passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 AM.